obey the agreed terms of procedure. Therefore, the remedy lies in the Ministry implementing the Memorandum of Procedure. There was time when there was nil vacancy. So, adhere to the Memorandum of Procedure so that the agreed formula is applied. *Ad hocism* is not the answer to the question of filling the vacancies.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member himself had been a Law Minister of great repute. He knows all the procedure. But, Sir, as the nodal Ministry, our responsibility is certainly to remind the various consulting authorities about the time-frame. Yes, I do see his point that, in many cases, the time factor has not been properly observed. As the Government, we enjoin on all the consulting authorities that this should be observed and we shall continue to emphasise upon that.

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: सर, महिला जजों के बारे में भी इनसे पूछिए, एक भी महिला जज नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: देखिए, यह तरीका ठीक नहीं है। आप जो मर्जी सो बोलेंगे? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: महिलाओं के संबंध में...

श्री सभापति: आप पहले एप्लाई करो, फिर सिफारिश करूंगा।

Concession in bus travel for mentally retarded

*373. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a long-time demand for concession in bus travel to the mentally retarded persons has not been met; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to instruct the concerned authorities to give concession/free travel facilities to mentally retarded persons alongwith an escort as is available while traveling by rail?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Granting of concession in bus travel to the mentally retarded persons comes under the purview of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. State Governments

have already been requested in this regard. As per information received from the States, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu provide concessional travel facility in their buses to mentally challenged persons and their escorts.

| उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) पीठासीन हुए |

श्रीमती सुमित्रा महाजन: मैं मंत्री जी के जवाब से संतुष्ट हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : आप सैकेन्ड सप्लीमेंट्री पूछेंगी क्या?

श्रीमती सुमित्रा महाजन: जी, नहीं।

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, the mentally challenged people have particularly a difficult time in catching buses and getting other facilities. It is surprising that despite a clear order from the Centre, many States have not yet extended this facility to mentally challenged people. The physically handicapped and the mentally challenged people in this country never get sufficient consideration.

May I ask the hon. Minister, whether he will ensure that, before the end of this financial year, this simple facility is extended to mentally challenged people around the country, because they are suffering and they cannot make it on their own? In this regard, Sir, something has to be done and it cannot go on like this.

डॉ. सत्यनारायण जटिया: महोदय, मैं अपने आपको माननीय सदस्य की चिंता से जोड़ते हुए, जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि यह सुविधा बाकी के प्रदेशों में भी मिलनी चाहिए। हमने इसकी जानकारी प्राप्त करने का काम किया था और हमें जो एडिशनल जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है उसमें आन्ध्र प्रदेश, गोवा, महाराष्ट्र और उत्तरांचल इस्कार्ट के साथ सुविधा देता है किन्तु बिना इस्कार्ट के साथ, जो बिना सहयात्री के साथ यह सुविधा दे रहे हैं, वे हैं, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पश्चिमी बंगाल, गुजरात और चंडीगढ़। इन प्रदेशों ने तो मानसिक रूप से मंद व्यक्तियों को इस प्रकार की सहायता देने का काम किया है। हम उनसे आग्रह करेंगे क्योंकि इस ओरिजनल एक्ट में केवल छात्रों का प्रावधान है। यदि आवश्यकता हुई तो इसमें सुधार करके भी, हम सभी से आग्रह करेंगे कि यह सुविधा दी जाए।

**374. [The Questioner (Shri Bachani Lekhraj) was absent For answer vide pages 38—42.]*